

EASTERN PLAINS RC&D AREA, INC.

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Resource Conservation & Development Area Office

EXHIBIT 1

DATE 1/29/07

HB 2

January 26, 2007

Montana State Legislator

Natural Resources Joint Subcommittee

Fax # - (House) 406-444-4825 - (Senate) 406-444-4875

RE: funding of Missouri River Conservation District Council (MRCD) in HB-2

The Eastern Plains RC&D has worked very closely with the Missouri River Conservation Districts Council, primarily through their staff member **Vicky Marquis** - coordinator. We strongly support the upcoming funding for the MRCD Council that is listed in HB-2.

Just last week Vicky, representing the MRCD, met with the LOMO CRM and the many government agencies on matters concerning the upcoming restoration efforts the US Army COE will soon start on the Lower Missouri River. She is a very valuable asset in these efforts. Her position and program funding has been and will continue to be very valuable to this region.

Some of the past and current efforts of the MRCD in this region include:

1. Coordination of all agencies, both state and federal, on watershed management along the Missouri River. Vicki is well organized and pulls all parties together very efficiently.
2. Assistance with the Missouri River Dredge, that now operates and provides an environmentally friendly method of repairing irrigation pump sites.
3. Assistance in organizing the planning efforts to develop a Lower Missouri River CREP, similar to the one on the upper Missouri River.

Again, please provide support for the MRCD Council's efforts that are listed in HB-2.

Thanks



Dick Iversen

Eastern Plains RC&D